

CHINESE WOMEN ARE LAWMAKERS

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY IN CANTON HAS TEN WOMEN MEMBERS—
MEN WEAR ROBES AND THE WOMEN TROUSERS

Carrie Chapman Catt, the well-known lecturer and writer in behalf of equal suffrage and the cause of women generally, writes from China to the Woman's Journal as follows:

Dozens of people in Hong Kong, including the American and Dutch consuls and several Chinese gentlemen in sympathy with the republic, assured us with emphasis that there was no other foundation for the astonishing statements which had gone forth to the world concerning the relation of Chinese women to the revolution and republic than a slight agitation, and that this was of such indefinite character that no details of it were known. It seemed to us at the time quite unbelievable that these intelligent people, living at the gateway into China, and presumably reading the daily Chinese press, could be mistaken. We have learned since then that in this country the "left hand knoweth not what the right hand doeth," and that neither hand knows the deeds of its fingers.

Seeking Chinese Suffragists.

We were quite convinced that there was no woman suffrage in China, but we believed there were suffragists, and these we proposed to find if it were humanly possible. We therefore turned our faces toward Canton, as soon as we returned from the Philippines, equipped with all the letters and names we could get. Canton is, next to Peking, the largest city in China, and was the center of the revolution for south China, as it is now one of the chief bulwarks of the new republic. It lies ninety miles inland from Hong Kong, and is reached by boat on the broad, picturesque, mountain-bordered Canton river.

They Take Risky Trip.

There was a little flavor of adventure about this trip. Many people shook their heads doubtfully when we spoke of our plans, and evidently thought us foolhardy. Had they known that we were an expedition hunting for suffragists, they would have considered us stark mad.

Hut for Provincial Assembly.

One by one we made our calls, presented our letters and asked questions. We knew that each province in China had been granted a provisional assembly, with the expectation that it would later become a permanent provincial legislature. No one could tell us where or when the assembly for the province of Canton might meet, nor of whom it was composed. Upon one point they were agreed, and that was that no woman had ever voted for its members, nor been elected a member. Some gave us other names and clues, and these we chased up and down from north to south and east to west of the six square miles of Canton, in and out of its narrow streets, over bridges and through gateways, always in the midst of hurrying, scurrying throngs of shouting men, women and children. Among those who "didn't know" were one American, one Italian and three Chinese physicians, two heads of important schools, two leading missionaries, and many more. All had lived in Canton through the revolution and the establishment of the new order. I mention these details because there is no more enlightening comment upon the situation here than the dense ignorance which abounds among all classes of people as to what is going on. Dr. Jacobs and I agree that we shall remember the two entire days spent in Canton searching for suffragists as the most unique and eventful of our whole trip.

They See Women Legislators.

At last a letter from the Dutch consul-general gave us a clue, which, traced to its source, seated us in a gallery from which we looked down upon the assembly of Canton province in session. Lo! there below us sat the women members, of whom some of the most intelligent men and women in China had never heard. How we did gloat our wondering eyes upon them! The mercury was soaring somewhere near the top of the thermometer, the humidity was well-nigh unendurable, and we had been drenched twice by tropical showers, but we forgot all the discomforts and fatigue, and gazed spell-bound at this manifestation of the New China.

Men Wear Gowns, Women Trousers.

The building was an old one, hastily repaired for the use of the assembly. There was nothing Chinese nor even oriental about it. On a raised platform sat the Chinaman and secretary, and the members sat in a semicircle before them. The whole arrangement was western. The differences were in the people.

Every member carried a fan, and the men wagged theirs diligently; the women rarely used theirs. About half the men wore European dress,

the other half the native gown, usually made of silk. This is so long that a gentleman must lift it when he goes upstairs or crosses a muddy street. The women, like all other women in China, wore trousers. The men all wore light-colored garments; the women were all in black except one who wore dark blue. At least two had little deformed feet. The speaker and secretary wore long white silk gowns and fanned themselves leisurely.

An Orator in Bracelets.

The members did not address the chair to gain the floor, but simply arose and began to talk. Just what would happen if the spirit should move two or more to pour forth their wisdom at the same time, as with us, I did not learn, as each speaker was politely listened to until he finished. A few, as is usual elsewhere, seemed to do the talking, and one orator who made many gestures wore bracelets. All was quiet, orderly and very earnest. The vote was taken by rising. We observed that the lady members did not always vote the same way.

Armed Guards in Corridors.

The corridors were guarded rather conspicuously by armed men, and afterwards we learned that this was by request of the assembly, as the building it occupies is outside the city walls, and the assembly of a neighboring province was attacked by a body of ruffians.

Supping With Women Legislators.

After feasting our eyes upon this sight, more rare and wonderful than ever fell to the lot of the renowned Marco Polo, we were obliged to go away very dissatisfied, for we could find no one who understood English. We went next to the Cantonese chairman of the Tung Mong Hui, to whom we had also been given a letter. We found him most cordial, and when he learned that we wished to speak with the women members of the assembly, he promptly invited us to take supper at his house and promised to get as many of the women as he could. He issued his invitations by telephone, and we shortly repaired to his house, where we met two women and two men members of the assembly and other members of the society. The ladies spoke Chinese only, but the young men had been educated in foreign schools and spoke English. While we ate our supper and put forth our first effort with chopsticks, the menu including the far-famed Chinese delicacy, shark's fins, frogs and other strange but tasty dishes, this is what we learned:

How the Idea Started.

About fifteen years ago Dr. Sun Yat Sen organized the Tung Mong Hui (the United Sworn Society), a secret society whose primary object was to overthrow the Manchus. It spread rapidly, and became especially popular among the young men, the students in foreign lands becoming ardently enthusiastic in its support. Dr. Sun is a real radical, and introduced the idea of equality of the sexes into the society. Women became members, but not in large numbers, and most of them were inactive. Some, however, worked as persistently and effectively as any of the men, making converts and getting in new members, collecting money and distributing literature, and stood ready to do all things for the good and advancement of the society.

When the society had grown strong enough to precipitate the revolution and the military preparations were in progress, some of these women wanted to serve as soldiers. They got small encouragement, as the men thought there was no need for them to undertake such duties. Some young women, chiefly students, did go north and did join other women there and were trained, not for aggression, but for defense. We must learn the facts concerning this company when we go north, for nothing very definite could be learned in Canton.

Ten Women Chosen in Canton.

When the provisional government was formed upon the ruins of the Manchu regime, the Tung Mong Hui of Canton arranged for the election of the assembly for that province, the higher officials having been appointed by the provisional government at Peking. Practically all men and women who chose to do so were allowed to vote for that assembly, and it was ordered by those in authority that ten women should be elected, the whole number in the assembly being 120. In reality few took interest or cognizance of the Tung Mong Hui. The ten women were elected. One, a young woman, resigned, and is now on her way to America, where she will enter a college. In truth, he family opposed her serving, upon the ground that it was too bold and forward a position for a young woman.

We saw and talked with her mother. This young lady is a Christian, but we believe the nine who accepted the charge are all Confucians. We saw eight of them.

They Changed Their Names.

The most curious part of the story is that the families of all of them were more or less rebellious over this sudden promotion of a female member to the dignity of a lawmaker. The husbands of the married ones were quite unreconcilable to having their names made known to the world as the husbands of such prominent wives, for in China, as elsewhere, properly behaved women are supposed to be neither seen nor heard. Now what do you think these small-footed little Confucian wives did? They just said: "Very well, we won't disgrace you; we will just take our own names again, while we are members of the assembly." So every woman is known as "miss," although several are married.

"Miss Wong Chin Cheong and Miss Lun Yin Wah are wives of officers; Miss Li Pui Lan and Miss Chong Han Kin are wives of prominent merchants; Miss Tang Ngai Ning has been a government student in Japan; Misses Man Cheang Fong, Yik Yuet Yink and Cheong Yuen are teachers in the government normal school for girls at Canton, and Miss Ng Kwai Sheong is a teacher.

The leaders of the Tung Mong Hui believe that women voted for the provisional assembly in no other province, and that there are no women members in any other assembly, nor in the national council. Woman suffrage was not granted by the provisional constitutional convention, so only men will vote at the coming elections. These have been postponed from time to time on account of the turbulent condition of the country, and are now fixed, but subject to further postponement, for January next.

WILL DEVELOP HOME.

Honolulu Man to Have Home Near Grants Pass.

Charles Meserve, who is in charge of the interests of W. R. Buchanan, the Honolulu sugar planter, in this region, has just been instructed by Mr. Buchanan to proceed this winter with the clearing and planting of the property purchased last fall in the Savage creek district, says a Grants Pass exchange.

Mr. Buchanan, who is a well-to-do citizen of that territory, owns a 160-acre tract of the old Savage donation claim located at the rapids, which he proposes to develop into a modern country seat to which he will remove in two or three years, or when it has been developed under the expert direction of Mr. Meserve. It is the plan to clear some twenty acres this winter, and to plant it out to fruit or seed to alfalfa. The place will be irrigated by pumps, electric power being used to lift the water from the Rogue, and no expense will be spared to make a model home place of it. An oak grove of several acres on the banks of the Rogue will be trimmed out and landscaped, and the residence and other farm buildings will be erected there. All varieties of fruit will be planted out, as there are parts of the farm that are especially adapted to the culture of all the various kinds that come to such perfection in this valley, and pears, apples, grapes and apricots will each be grown.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the First Quarterly Conference of the First M. E. church of Ashland, on October 8, 1912:

Whereas, At the Oregon Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church recently held in the city of Ashland, Ore., the churches of the city extended many courtesies and aided materially in making the conference a successful and memorable one, and

Whereas, The citizens of Ashland, without regard to denominational affiliation, very generously opened their homes for the entertainment of our visitors, and

Whereas, The Presbyterian church and the Citizens' Banking & Trust Company of this city placed their rooms at the disposition of the conference for the purpose of meetings and committees and provided every facility in their power for the furtherance of the work of the conference; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, That the sincere and heartfelt thanks of the officers and members of the First M. E. church of Ashland be and the same are hereby extended to the various religious bodies and business organizations for their kindly assistance and good will, and to the Commercial Club and the men and women of Ashland, through whose efforts and generosity our visitors were so royally entertained.

Be it further resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be printed in the local papers.

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR MONEY'S WORTH ? Out of Your Electric Lights ?

Mr. Fagan, an expert electrical engineer of note, has been secured by the Ashland Power and Light Co. to assist the people of Ashland in solving the lighting problems by giving a **FREE ILLUSTRATED LECTURE** at the

Chautauqua Building

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 29

Mr. Fagan will demonstrate by apparatus the correct and incorrect methods of illuminating residences, stores and show windows. He will also explain in detail the manufacture of incandescent lamps and will close his lecture with a reel of moving pictures bearing on electrical subjects. No one who uses even a single electric light can afford to miss this scientific yet highly popular lecture. Mr. Fagan has been greeted with full houses wherever he has lectured and the evening's entertainment and instruction far outclasses many a program for which you would be charged 50c or \$1.

Remember the lecture is

Absolutely Free

8 o'clock sharp.

The building will be comfortably heated

TALKS ON ADVERTISING TO ASHLAND READERS.

(By Ralph Kaye.)

Every merchant and manufacturer, retailer and jobber desires to increase his volume of profitable trade. He (first) wishes to increase his number of profitable customers and (second) to make them profitable.

Here is how I would suggest:
1st. He should advertise in the mediums he knows will reach the class of purchasers who need and can afford his goods. He must talk to them in a way they will quickly understand, then appreciate and finally act upon.

2nd. In order to make his customers permanent he must live up to his published promises—in other words, make good.

Let us put it this way: He must lay a rock foundation of public confidence for the building of permanent success, rather than speculating in the shifting sands of broken promises.

Help the Kidneys

Ashland Readers Are Learning the Way.

It's the little kidney ills—The lame, weak or aching back—The unnoticed urinary disorders—That might lead to dropsy and Bright's disease.

When the kidneys are weak, Help them with Doan's Kidney Pills.

A remedy especially for weak kidneys. Doan's have been used in kidney troubles for 50 years.

Endorsed by 30,000 people—endorsed at home.

Proof in an Ashland citizen's statement.

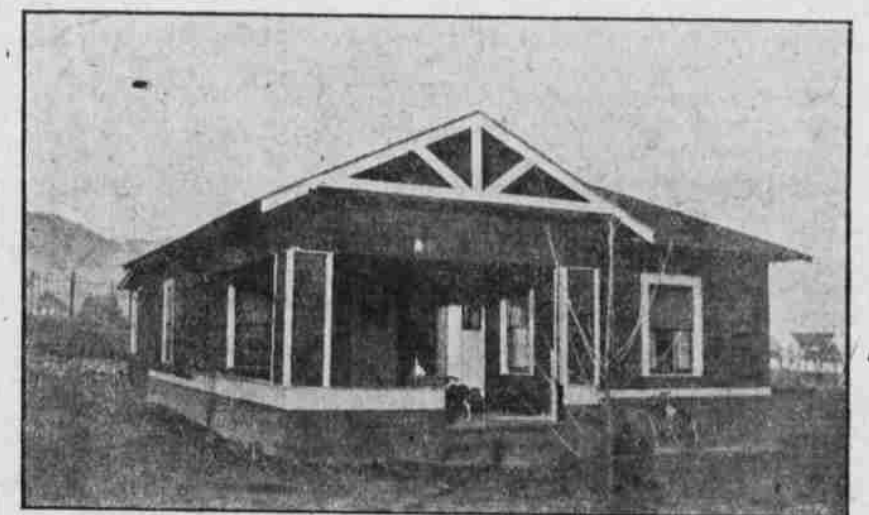
A. B. Schofield, Ashland, Ore., says: "It gives me pleasure to endorse Doan's Kidney Pills. They brought me great relief from a severe attack of kidney complaint and I am now entirely free from the trouble. Doan's Kidney Pills can be relied upon to dispose of backache and difficulty with the kidney secretions."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

SUNSET MAGAZINE and Ashland Tidings one year \$2.75 to old or new subscribers. Regular price of Sunset Magazine is \$1.50 per year.

La Follette's Weekly Magazine and the Tidings one year for \$2.50.



This house and two lots for sale at \$1,150.00 cash. Located one-half block from paved Boulevard, on Garfield street.

C. W. FORBES, City.

RUBEROID ROOFING

Original and Standard

Whatever roofing you are using on any building, you are paying the price of Ruberoid. There are 300 imitations of Ruberoid, and all of them cost more in the end than the genuine. These imitations in some cases even have names that sound like Ruberoid. Frequently they are sold as Ruberoid. Before they are laid and exposed to the weather they look like Ruberoid.

Twenty Years of Service

Ruberoid was the first ready roofing and is the only one that has made good. It has made good because it is made of the best wool felt, impregnated with materials manufactured exclusively by the makers of Ruberoid and which cannot be found in any other roofing.

ASHLAND MANUFACTURING CO.

ASHLAND, OREGON.

A. J. BIEGEL

Wireless apparatus which has worked successfully from heights of 2,000 feet has been perfected by a French aviator. A single-wheel road cart that can be taken anywhere that a horse can go maintains its balance by the use of special harness.